



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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## GOP Education Efforts Resonate with the American People

The American people are responding to President Bush's call for improvements in education quality. In Tuesday's *CongressDaily AM*, Charlie Cook noted that in a national poll conducted during the first week of March -- by a respected Democratic polling firm, no less -- respondents preferred Republicans over Democrats on the education issue by seven percentage points (45-38 percent).

Clearly, the President's message of giving states and local school districts flexibility in using federal dollars while holding them accountable for results is resonating with the American public.

When asked about specific features of the President's *No Child Left Behind* plan, the public is no less supportive. Indeed, last month, a bipartisan poll showed that a clear majority of Americans -- 63 percent -- support President Bush's proposal to allow the parents of children trapped in chronically failing schools to send their children to any public, private, or charter school (Tarrance Group poll for the National Education Association, February 2001).

In the poll mentioned by *CongressDaily*, education was first among nine issues to which Washington should pay attention. In short, education is the top priority for the American people. And President Bush and Republicans in Congress have responded with a bold, much-needed education plan -- a plan that Americans unmistakably support.

### Message of the Day

**Americans support President Bush's innovative approach to improving the quality of our education system.**

- ❑ *Even polls conducted by Democrats show that the American people favor the Republicans' plan for reforming the nation's public education system.*
- ❑ *Momentum is steadily building behind H.R. 1, President Bush's No Child Left Behind education reform bill.*
- ❑ *The American people support the Republican plan to give states and schools more flexibility in exchange for accountability.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- A recent Harris Poll found that 67 percent of Americans favor President Bush's education plan.
- The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found in a 1999 survey that nearly 60 percent of blacks support school choice, as do two-thirds of baby boomers and more than 70 percent of those under age 35.
- A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll conducted in January found that 60 percent of Americans say the public-school system is doing a poor or "only fair" job, and 54 percent of parents would prefer to send their child to a private school.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Washington has become a museum of antiquated education policies. The president wants to change all that."* Chester E. Finn Jr., "Inside Bush's School Plan," *New York Post*, January 25, 2001